

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of an order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date request;

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the buyer's address; and

allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code.

2. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

3. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

4. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

5. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date to completely ship the order to the buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

6. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

7. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of getting the zip code to which the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

8. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

9. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

10. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

11. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of allowing an order change to be made ~~based on a users security level clearance~~ further comprises the step of allowing an order change to be made using an external order interface.

12. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest with status information.

13. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of running said delivery management schedule when a reschedule has been requested.

14. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein said order information comprises data selected from the group including, the order date, the model number, the quantity of items, the brand of the item, the service to be selected, the requested delivery date, the buyer's delivery address, the security level clearance, and status information.

15. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of an order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order within a set of potential delivery dates based on the first potential arrival date request and the first date a respective delivery agent is prepared to ship the goods; and

selecting the actual delivery date from said set of potential delivery dates

allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least

one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code.

16. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

17. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

18. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

19. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date to completely ship the order to the buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

20. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest with said actual ship date and the respective additional capacity utilized.

21. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of getting the zip code to which the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

22. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

23. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

24. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

25. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 15, wherein said order information comprises data selected from the group including, the order date, the model number, the quantity of items, the brand of the item, the service to be selected, the requested delivery date, the buyer's delivery address, the security level clearance, and status information.

26. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for managing deliveries of a goods delivery system, the system employed to deliver an order from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a respective buyer, given order information, said computer process comprising the steps of:

determining a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location, based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date request;

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the buyer's address; and

allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least

one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code.

27. (previously presented) The computer process as recited in claim 26, further comprises the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

28. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 27, wherein the step of determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

29. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 28, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

30. (previously presented) The computer process as recited in claim 29, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date to completely ship the order to the buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

31. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 29, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

32. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 28, further comprising the step of getting the zip code to which the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

33. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 32, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

34. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 33, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

35. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 34, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

36. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 26, wherein the step of allowing order changes to be made ~~based on the users security level clearance~~ further comprises the step of allowing an order change to be made using an external order interface.

37. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 36, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest with status information.

38. (previously presented) The computer process as recited in claim 37, further comprising the step of running said delivery management schedule when a reschedule has been requested.

39. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 26, wherein said order information comprises data selected from the group including, the order date, the model number, the quantity of items, the brand of the item, the service to be selected, the requested delivery date, the buyer's delivery address, the security level clearance, and status information.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus for managing the delivery of an order from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a respective buyer, given order information, said apparatus comprising:

means for determining a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location, based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

means for determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date request;

means for determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the buyer's address;

means for updating an electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized; and

means for allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code.

41. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of a multiple brand order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least two suppliers to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the multiple brand order from the at least two suppliers based on the first potential arrival date request;

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the respective buyer's address; and



allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least two suppliers, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, one of the at least two suppliers, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code.

42. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 41, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from each of said supplier ship schedules based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

43. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 42, wherein the step of determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

44. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

45. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date to completely ship the order to the respective buyer based on a respective capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

46. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 44, further comprising the step of updating an electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

47. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of getting each zip code to which a portion of the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

48. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 47, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

49. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 48, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the respective zip code of the order.

50. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 49, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

51. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of a multiple brand order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least two suppliers to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date request;

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the buyer's address; and

allowing an order change to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the delivery agent, the buyer, the at least two suppliers, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a user's security level clearance type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the delivery agent, the buyer, one of the at least two suppliers, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code..

52. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 51, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a respective supplier's ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

53. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 52, wherein the step of determining the ability of the delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

54. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

55. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date to completely ship the order to the buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

56. (previously presented) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 54, further comprising the step of updating an electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

57. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprising the step of getting the zip code to which the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

58. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

59. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 58, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

60. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 59, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.